

## TRAIL CREW NOTES

Location: Lower Dungeness (833.3), ONF

13 June 2025 (84 hrs)

Rebecca Wanagel  
Martin Knowles  
Randy Kraxberger  
David Graves  
Hannah Graves  
Bill Mueller  
LaVonne Mueller  
Mel Melmed  
Eric Nagle  
James Miller  
Miguel Reabold  
Brian Berg

14 June 2025 (36 hrs)

Rebecca Wanagel  
Martin Knowles  
Randy Kraxberger  
David Graves  
Hannah Graves  
Bear Pearcy

20 June 2025 (38 hrs)

Rebecca Wanagel  
Martin Knowles  
Randy Kraxberger  
David Graves  
Paul Kamps

Total hours: 158

- Objective(s) for the crew:

- Replace deteriorated project 5b (puncheon) with new puncheon. The goal of these replacements is to convert as much of the several hundred feet of deteriorating puncheon into longer-lasting turnpike and only build replacement puncheons in spots where absolutely necessary.
- Locate rock for upcoming Northwest Youth Corps crew to use in building ramps and adjoining turnpikes for project 5b.
- Obtain log for NWYC to use in replacing missing bull rail on project 3 (bridge).

- Task(s) accomplished:

- We quickly removed the deteriorated puncheon while being careful to remove and carry out any rebar and spikes.
- Preparing (i.e., debarking, moving) new sills, stringers, and bull rails went quickly as we had felled the trees for these last summer when we cut material for the two puncheons started by WTA. With a large crew, we chose to carry the items using straps as a quicker and safer means due to the twisty and rooted nature of the trail. The sills and stringers went in smoothly and we were looking forward to the same with the decking.
- For the WTA-built puncheons, we had cut the decking from a large Douglas Fir that had fallen a few years earlier only 50 feet from the work site. However, we had milled all the unbroken wood from that tree. So, for this puncheon, we hoped to use decking left over from a downstream puncheon installed several years ago. Unfortunately, that decking turned out to be of mixed sizes and rotten in parts.
- Given this, we could have been on a desperate search for more fallen, unbroken, large and conveniently-located Douglas Firs. Quite a set of requirements. Fortunately, nature foresaw our predicament and, in March and April, dropped three large Douglas Firs on the trail about 100 yards up from the puncheon to be built. Thank you. So we added a day to bring the Alaskan saw mill back in to cut more decking. The largest tree was barely within the 36" saw mill's capability so milling could proceed with it. We could have milled decking from the smaller tree but it would have taken more planks to provide the decking needed. As it was, it took only 5½ full size planks to cover the 11-foot puncheon.

- As a final task, we moved, debarked, and installed a bull rail to replace one that had fallen apart on a short bridge much closer to the upper trailhead. We initially planned to have the NWYC install the bull rail but we didn't know if they would have the required peeling and drilling tools. It took less than 30-minutes to move, prep, and install the bull rail so it could be scratched off the to-do list.
- Task(s) remaining:
  - The Northwest Youth Corps crew will be on-site June 23-27 to move enough rock to build the turnpikes and ramps adjoining puncheon 5b.
  - We still need to fix the remaining 12 puncheons and bridges on the trail according to their condition and location relative to two ONF-planned cross-river bridges to bypass slide areas on the trail. We have now taken care of those structures in the worst condition, but more are definitely in need of remediation.

David Graves  
Gray Wolf Trail Crew



In the beginning ... (April 2024 survey)



As of April 2025 (new Summer/Fall 2024  
turnpike & puncheon in background)



Demolition and spike removal

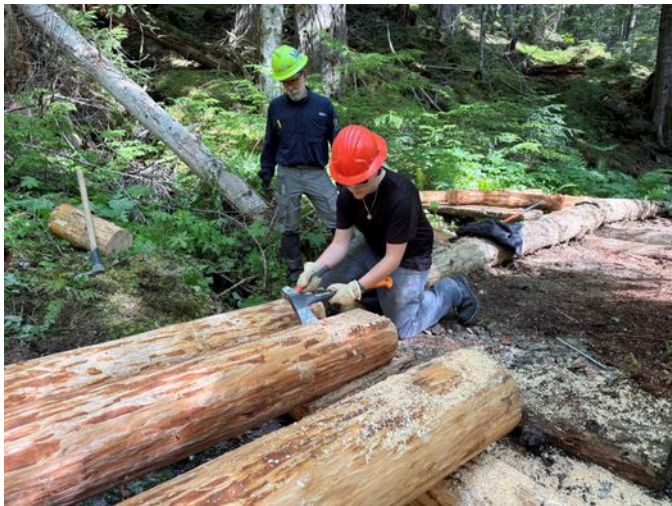


Debarking and moving the new stringers





## Setting sills and stringers





Prep bull rails (with upstream puncheon as worktable)



Getting Alaskan sawmill to the site



Trees provided in March and April 2025

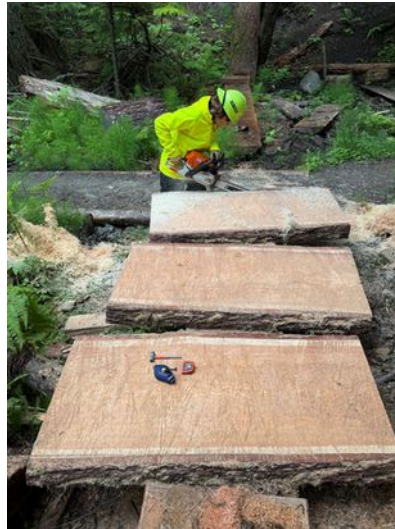


cutting decking with Alaskan saw mill





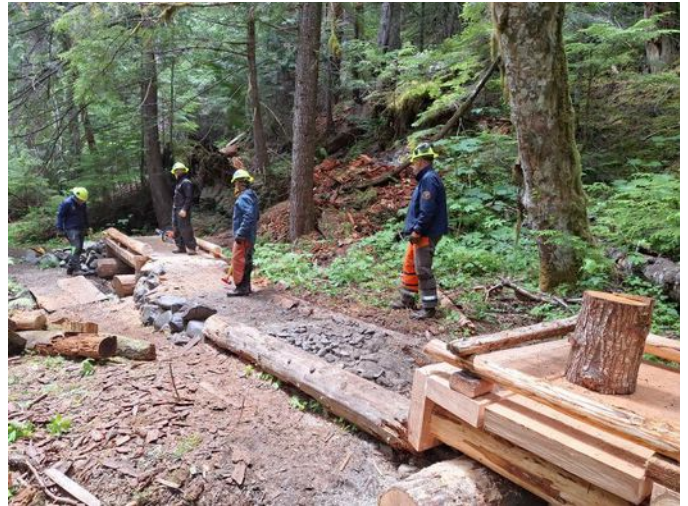
edge trimming



installing decking



bull rails pinned on both puncheons



ready for ramps



upper puncheon bull rail

